

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)

for

E. Coli

in the

Obey River Watershed

(HUC 05130105)

**Clay, Cumberland, Fentress, Overton, Pickett, and Putnam
Counties, Tennessee**

FINAL

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Assessment Database
AFO	Animal Feeding Operation
BMP	Best Management Practices
BST	Bacteria Source Tracking
CAFO	Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	Cubic Feet per Second
CFU	Colony Forming Units
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DWPC	Division of Water Pollution Control
E. coli	Escherichia coli
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
HSPF	Hydrological Simulation Program - Fortran
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
LA	Load Allocation
LDC	Load Duration Curve
LSPC	Loading Simulation Program in C++
MGD	Million Gallons per Day
MOS	Margin of Safety
MRLC	Multi-Resolution Land Characteristic
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MST	Microbial Source Tracking
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NMP	Nutrient Management Plan
NPS	Nonpoint Source
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PDFE	Percent of Days Flow Exceeded
PFGE	Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis
Rf3	Reach File v.3
RM	River Mile
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
SWMP	Storm Water Management Program
TDA	Tennessee Department of Agriculture
TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
TDOT	Tennessee Department of Transportation
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TWRA	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UCF	Unit Conversion Factor
WCS	Watershed Characterization System
WLA	Waste Load Allocation
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility

SUMMARY SHEET

Total Maximum Daily Load for E. coli in Obey River Watershed (HUC 05130105)

Impaired Waterbody Information

State: Tennessee

Counties: Fentress and Pickett

Watershed: Obey River (HUC 05130105)

Constituents of Concern: E. coli

Impaired Waterbodies Addressed in This Document:

Waterbody ID	Waterbody	Miles Impaired
TN05130105019 – 0300	ROCKCASTLE CREEK	8.9
TN05130105033 – 1400	TOWN BRANCH	3.1

Designated Uses:

The designated use classifications for waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed include fish and aquatic life, irrigation, livestock watering & wildlife, and recreation.

Water Quality Targets:

Derived from *State of Tennessee Water Quality Standards, Chapter 1200-4-3, General Water Quality Criteria, January, 2004* for recreation use classification (most stringent):

The concentration of the E. coli group shall not exceed 126 colony forming units per 100 mL, as a geometric mean based on a minimum of 5 samples collected from a given sampling site over a period of not more than 30 consecutive days with individual samples being collected at intervals of not less than 12 hours. For the purposes of determining the geometric mean, individual samples having an E. coli concentration of less than 1 per 100 mL shall be considered as having a concentration of 1 per 100 mL. In addition, the concentration of the E. coli group in any individual sample taken from a lake, reservoir, State Scenic River, or Tier II or III stream (1200-4-3-.06) shall not exceed 487 colony forming units per 100 mL. The concentration of the E. coli group in any individual sample taken from any other waterbody shall not exceed 941 colony forming units per 100 mL.

Note: At the time of this TMDL analysis, high quality waters were designated as Tier II and Tier III streams. The proposed revised water quality standards redefine high quality waters as Exceptional Tennessee Waters. For further information on Tennessee's current general water quality standards, see:

<http://www.state.tn.us/sos/rules/1200/1200-04/1200-04-03.pdf>

For further information on the proposed revised general water quality standards and Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement, including the definition of Exceptional Tennessee Waters, see:

http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/1200_04_03_2nd_draft.pdf

TMDL Scope:

Waterbodies identified on the Final 2006 303(d) list as impaired due to E. coli. TMDLs were developed for impaired waterbodies on a HUC-12 subwatershed or waterbody drainage area basis.

Analysis/Methodology:

The TMDLs for impaired waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed were developed using a load duration curve methodology to assure compliance with the E. Coli 126 CFU/100 mL geometric mean and the 487 CFU/100 mL maximum water quality criteria for lakes, reservoirs, State Scenic Rivers, or Tier II or Tier III waterbodies and 941 CFU/100 mL maximum water quality criteria for all other waterbodies. A duration curve is a cumulative frequency graph that represents the percentage of time during which the value of a given parameter is equaled or exceeded. Load duration curves are developed from flow duration curves and can illustrate existing water quality conditions (as represented by loads calculated from monitoring data), how these conditions compare to desired targets, and the region of the waterbody flow regime represented by these existing loads. Load duration curves were also used to determine percent load reduction goals to meet the target maximum loading for E. coli. When sufficient data were available, load reductions were also determined based on geometric mean criterion.

Critical Conditions:

Water quality data collected over a period of 10 years for load duration curve analysis were used to assess the water quality standards representing a range of hydrologic and meteorological conditions.

For each impaired waterbody, critical conditions were determined by evaluating the percent load reduction goals, for each hydrologic flow zone, to meet the target (TMDL) loading for E. coli. The percent load reduction goal of the greatest magnitude corresponds with the critical flow zone.

Seasonal Variation:

The 10-year period used for LSPC model simulation period for development of load duration curve analysis included all seasons and a full range of flow and meteorological conditions.

Margin of Safety (MOS):

Explicit MOS = 10% of the E. coli water quality criteria for each impaired subwatershed or drainage area.

**Summary of TMDLs, WLAs, & LAs expressed as daily loads for Impaired Waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed
(HUC 05130105)**

HUC-12 Subwatershed (05130105___) or Drainage Area (DA)	Impaired Waterbody Name	Impaired Waterbody ID	TMDL	MOS	WLAs			LAs
					WWTFs ^a	Leaking Collection Systems	MS4s	
			[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day/acre]	[CFU/day/acre]
0107	Rockcastle Creek	TN05130105019 – 0300	$2.30 \times 10^{10} * Q$	$2.30 \times 10^9 * Q$	3.562×10^{10}	0	NA	$4.052 \times 10^7 * Q - 6.972 \times 10^7$
0403(DA)	Town Branch	TN05130105033 – 1400	$1.20 \times 10^{10} * Q$	$1.20 \times 10^9 * Q$	1.103×10^{10}	0	NA	$5.219 \times 10^6 * Q - 5.345 \times 10^6$

Notes: NA = Not Applicable.

a. WLAs for WWTFs are expressed as E. coli loads (CFU/day). All current and future WWTFs must meet water quality standards at the point of discharge as specified in their NPDES permit; at no time shall concentration be greater than the appropriate E. coli standard (487 CFU/100 mL or 941 CFU/100 mL).

PROPOSED E. COLI TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) OBEY RIVER WATERSHED (HUC 05130105)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to list those waters within its boundaries for which technology based effluent limitations are not stringent enough to protect any water quality standard applicable to such waters. Listed waters are prioritized with respect to designated use classifications and the severity of pollution. In accordance with this prioritization, states are required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for those waterbodies that are not attaining water quality standards. State water quality standards consist of designated uses for individual waterbodies, appropriate numeric and narrative water quality criteria protective of the designated uses, and an antidegradation statement. The TMDL process establishes the maximum allowable loadings of pollutants for a waterbody that will allow the waterbody to maintain water quality standards. The TMDL may then be used to develop controls for reducing pollution from both point and nonpoint sources in order to restore and maintain the quality of water resources (USEPA, 1991).

2.0 SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

This document presents details of TMDL development for waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed, identified on the Final 2006 303(d) list as not supporting designated uses due to E. coli. TMDL analyses were performed primarily on a 12-digit hydrologic unit area (HUC-12) basis. In some cases, where appropriate, TMDLs were developed for an impaired waterbody drainage area only.

3.0 WATERSHED DESCRIPTION

The Obey River Watershed (HUC 05130105) is located in Middle and Eastern Tennessee (Figure 1), primarily in Fentress, Overton, and Pickett Counties. The Obey River Watershed falls within two Level III ecoregions (Southwestern Appalachians and Interior Plateau) and contains four Level IV subecoregions (USEPA, 1997) as shown in Figure 2:

- **Cumberland Plateau (68a)** tablelands and open low mountains are about 1000 feet higher than the Eastern Highland Rim (71g) to the west, and receive slightly more precipitation with cooler annual temperatures than the surrounding lower-elevation ecoregions. The plateau surface is less dissected with lower relief compared to the Cumberland Mountains (69d) or the Plateau Escarpment (68c). Elevations are generally 1200-2000 feet, with the Crab Orchard Mountains reaching over 3000 feet. Pennsylvanian-age conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, and shale is covered by well-drained, acid soils of low fertility. Bituminous coal that has been extensively surface and underground mined underlies the region. Acidification of first and second order streams is common. Stream siltation and mine spoil bedload deposits continue as long-term problems in these headwater systems. Pockets of severe acid mine drainage persist.
- **Plateau Escarpment (68c)** is characterized by steep, forested slopes and high velocity, high gradient streams. Local relief is often 1000 feet or more. The geologic strata include

Mississippian-age limestone, sandstone, shale, and siltstone, and Pennsylvanian-age shale, siltstone, sandstone, and conglomerate. Streams have cut down into the limestone, but the gorge talus slopes are composed of colluvium with huge angular, slabby blocks of sandstone. Vegetation community types in the ravines and gorges include mixed oak and chestnut oak on the upper slopes, mesic forests on the middle and lower slopes (beech-tulip poplar, sugar maple-basswood-ash-buckeye), with hemlock along rocky streamsides and river birch along floodplain terraces.

- **Eastern Highland Rim (71g)** has level terrain, with landforms characterized as tablelands of moderate relief and irregular plains. Mississippian-age limestone, chert, shale and dolomite predominate, and karst terrain sinkholes and depressions are especially noticeable between Sparta and McMinnville. Numerous springs and spring-associated fish fauna also typify the region. Natural vegetation for the region is transitional between the oak-hickory type to the west and the mixed mesophytic forests of the Appalachian ecoregions to the east. Bottomland hardwoods forests were once abundant in some areas, although much of the original bottomland forest has been inundated by several large impoundments. Barrens and former prairie areas are now mostly oak thickets or pasture and cropland.
- **Outer Nashville Basin (71h)** is a heterogeneous region, with rolling and hilly topography and slightly higher elevations. The region encompasses most all of the outer areas of the generally no-cherty Mississippian-age formations, and some Devonian-age Chattanooga shale, remnants of the Highland Rim. The region's limestone rocks and soils are high in phosphorus, and commercial phosphate is mined. Deciduous forest with pasture and cropland are the dominant land covers. Streams are low to moderate gradient, with productive, nutrient-rich waters, resulting in algae, rooted vegetation and occasionally high densities of fish. The Nashville Basin as a whole has a distinctive fish fauna, notable for fish that avoid the region, as well as those that are present.

The Obey River Watershed, located in Clay, Cumberland, Fentress, Overton, Pickett, and Putnam Counties, Tennessee, has a drainage area of approximately 782 square miles (mi²) in Tennessee. The entire watershed, including portions of Tennessee and Kentucky, drains approximately 945 square miles. Watershed land use distribution is based on the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristic (MRLC) databases derived from Landsat Thematic Mapper digital images from the period 1990-1993. Although changes in the land use of the Obey River Watershed have occurred since 1993 as a result of development, this is the most current land use data available. Land use for the Obey River Watershed is summarized in Table 1 and shown in Figure 3. Predominant land use in the Obey River Watershed is forest (87.3%) followed by pasture (10.2%). Urban areas represent approximately 0.6% of the total drainage area of the watershed. Details of land use distribution of impaired subwatersheds in the Obey River Watershed are presented in Appendix A.

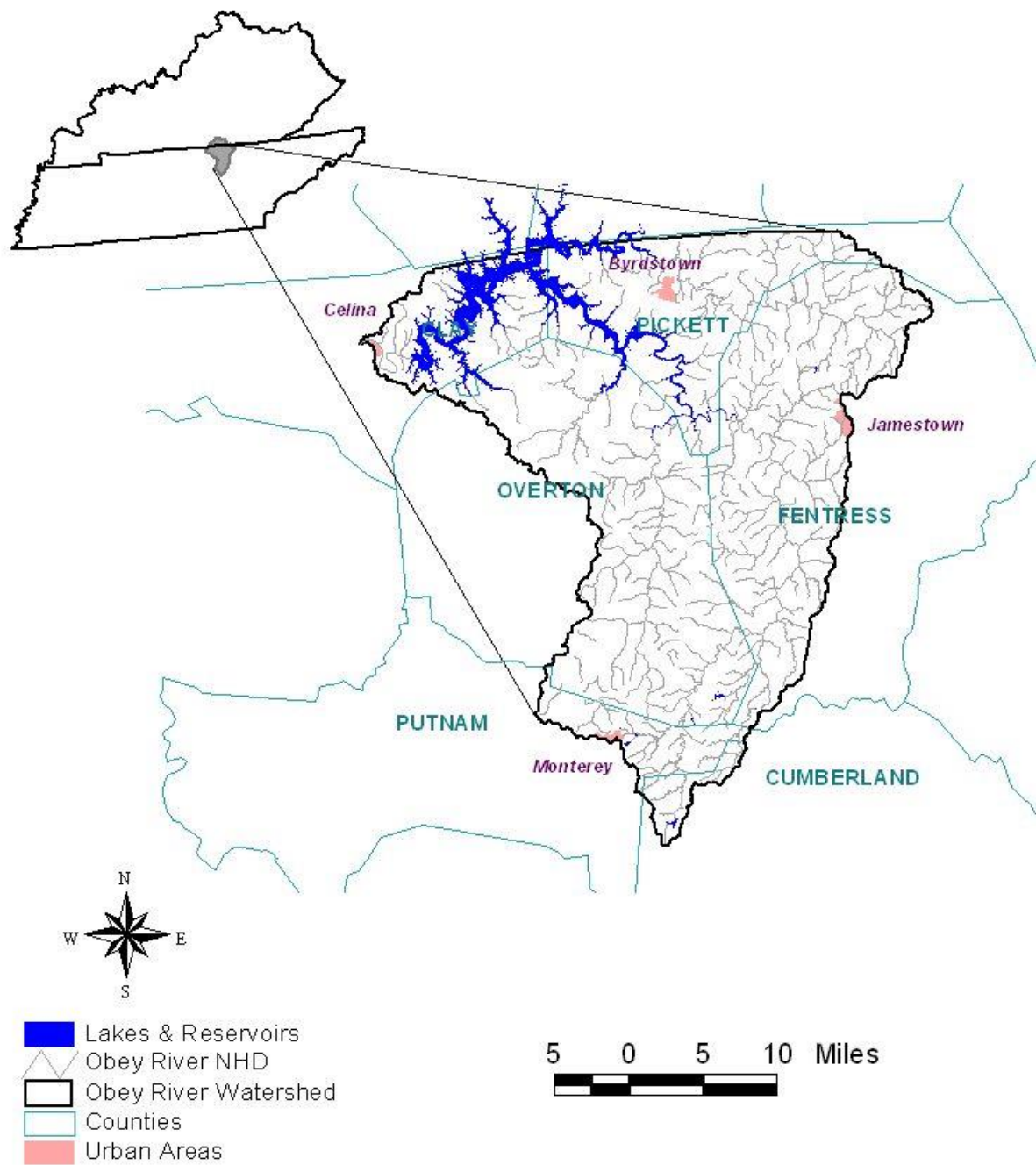


Figure 1. Location of the Obey River Watershed.

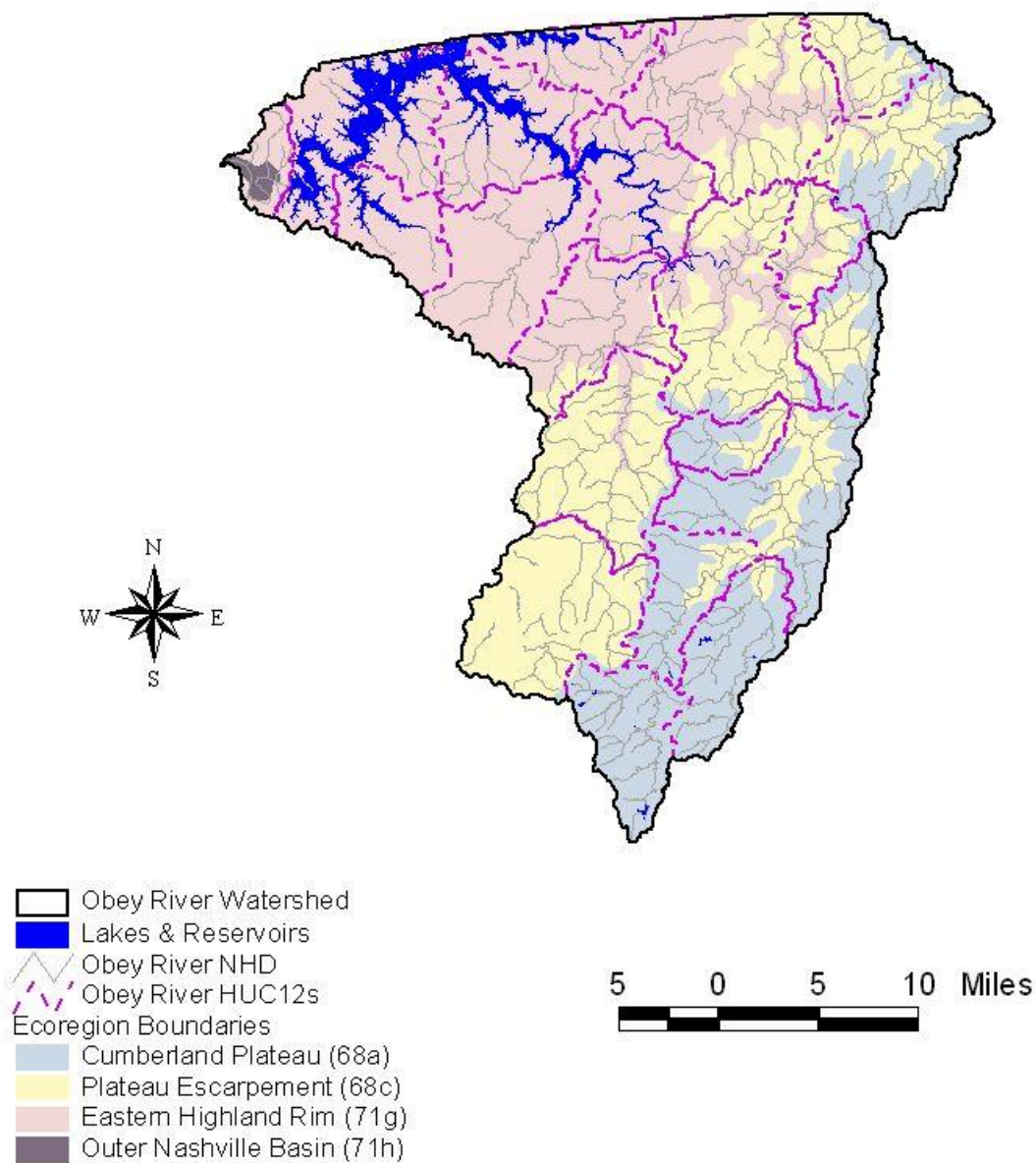


Figure 2. Level IV Ecoregions in the Obey River Watershed.

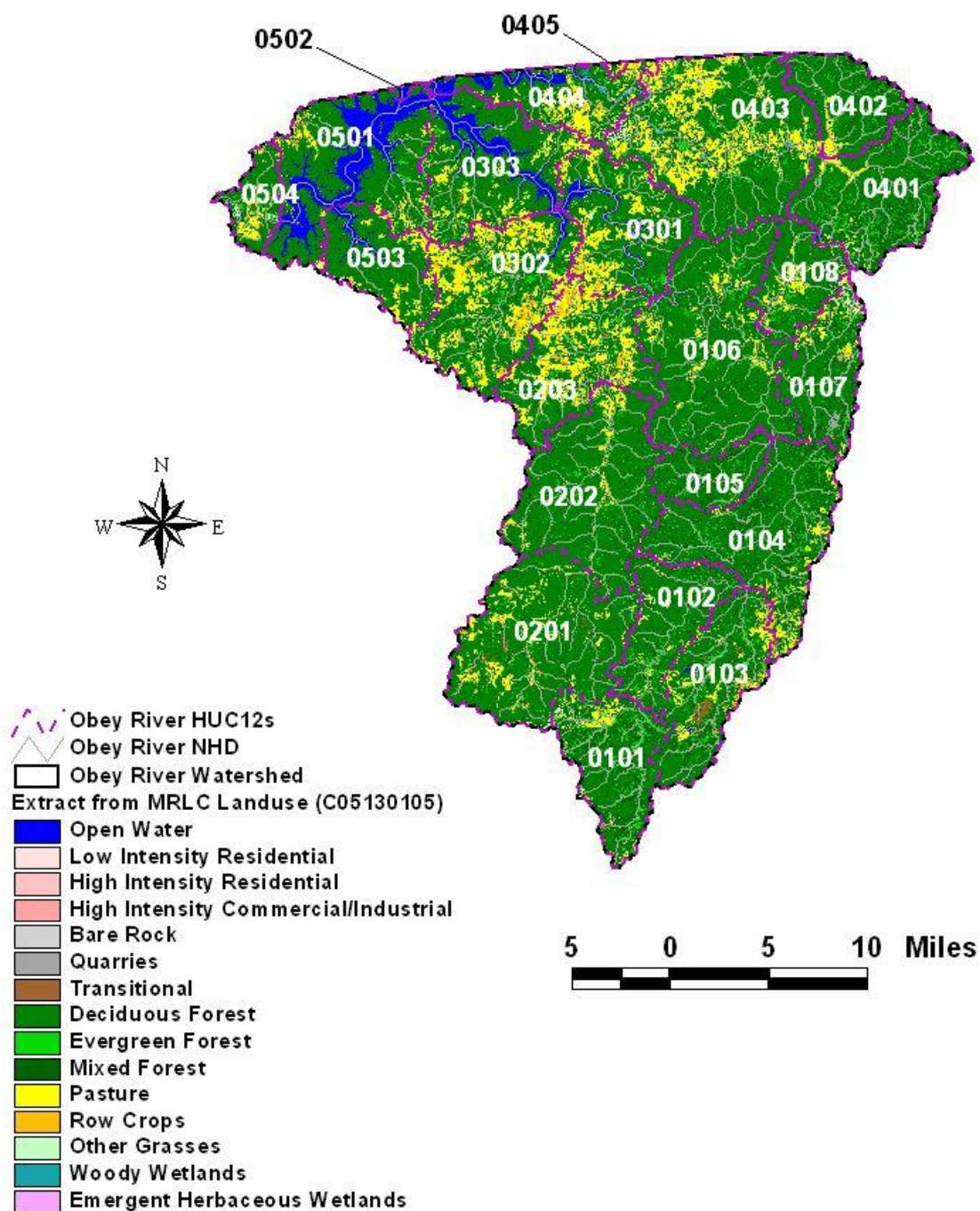


Figure 3. Land Use Characteristics of the Obey River Watershed.

Table 1. MRLC Land Use Distribution – Obey River Watershed

Land Use	Area	
	[acres]	%]
Bare Rock/Sand/Clay	8	0.0
Deciduous Forest	312,187	62.4
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	58	0.0
Evergreen Forest	26,036	5.2
High Intensity Commercial/Industrial/Transportation	1,070	0.2
High Intensity Residential	80	0.0
Low Intensity Residential	1,922	0.4
Mixed Forest	74,610	14.9
Open Water	19,880	4.0
Other Grasses (Urban/recreational)	1,788	0.4
Pasture/Hay	51,178	10.2
Quarries/Strip Mines/Gravel Pits	467	0.1
Row Crops	9,559	1.9
Transitional	1,015	0.2
Woody Wetlands	681	0.1
Total	500,539	100.0

4.0 PROBLEM DEFINITION

The State of Tennessee's final 2006 303(d) list (TDEC, 2006), <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/303d2006.pdf>, was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IV in October of 2006. This list identified portions of two waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed as not fully supporting designated use classifications due, in part, to E. coli (see Table 2 & Figure 4). The designated use classifications for these waterbodies include fish and aquatic life, irrigation, livestock watering & wildlife, and recreation.

5.0 WATER QUALITY CRITERIA & TMDL TARGET

As previously stated, the designated use classifications for the Obey River waterbodies include fish & aquatic life, recreation, irrigation, and livestock watering & wildlife. Of the use classifications with numeric criteria for E. coli, the recreation use classification is the most stringent and will be used to establish target levels for TMDL development. The coliform water quality criteria, for protection of the recreation use classification, is established by *State of Tennessee Water Quality Standards, Chapter 1200-4-3, General Water Quality Criteria, January 2004* (TDEC, 2004a).

Town Branch has been classified as a high quality water due to exceptional biological diversity. As of January 2, 2008, none of the other impaired waterbodies in the Obey River Watershed have been classified as high quality waters.

The geometric mean standard for the E. coli group of 126 colony forming units per 100 ml (CFU/100 ml) and the sample maximum of 487 CFU/100 ml have been selected as the appropriate numerical targets for TMDL development for impaired waterbodies classified as lakes, reservoirs, State Scenic Rivers, or Tier II or Tier III streams. The geometric mean standard for the E. coli group of 126 colony forming units per 100 ml (CFU/100 ml) and the sample maximum of 941 CFU/100 ml have been selected as the appropriate numerical targets for TMDL development for the other impaired waterbodies.

Table 2 Final 2006 303(d) List for E. coli Impaired Waterbodies – Obey River Watershed

Waterbody ID	Impacted Waterbody	Miles/Acres Impaired	Cause (Pollutant)	Pollutant Source
TN05130105019 – 0300	ROCKCASTLE CREEK	8.9	Nutrients Low DO Thermal Modifications Escherichia coli	Minor Municipal Point Source Urbanized High Density Area
TN05130105033 – 1400	TOWN BRANCH	3.1	Nitrates Phosphates Loss of biological integrity due to siltation Escherichia coli	Minor Municipal Point Source Sludge Undetermined Source

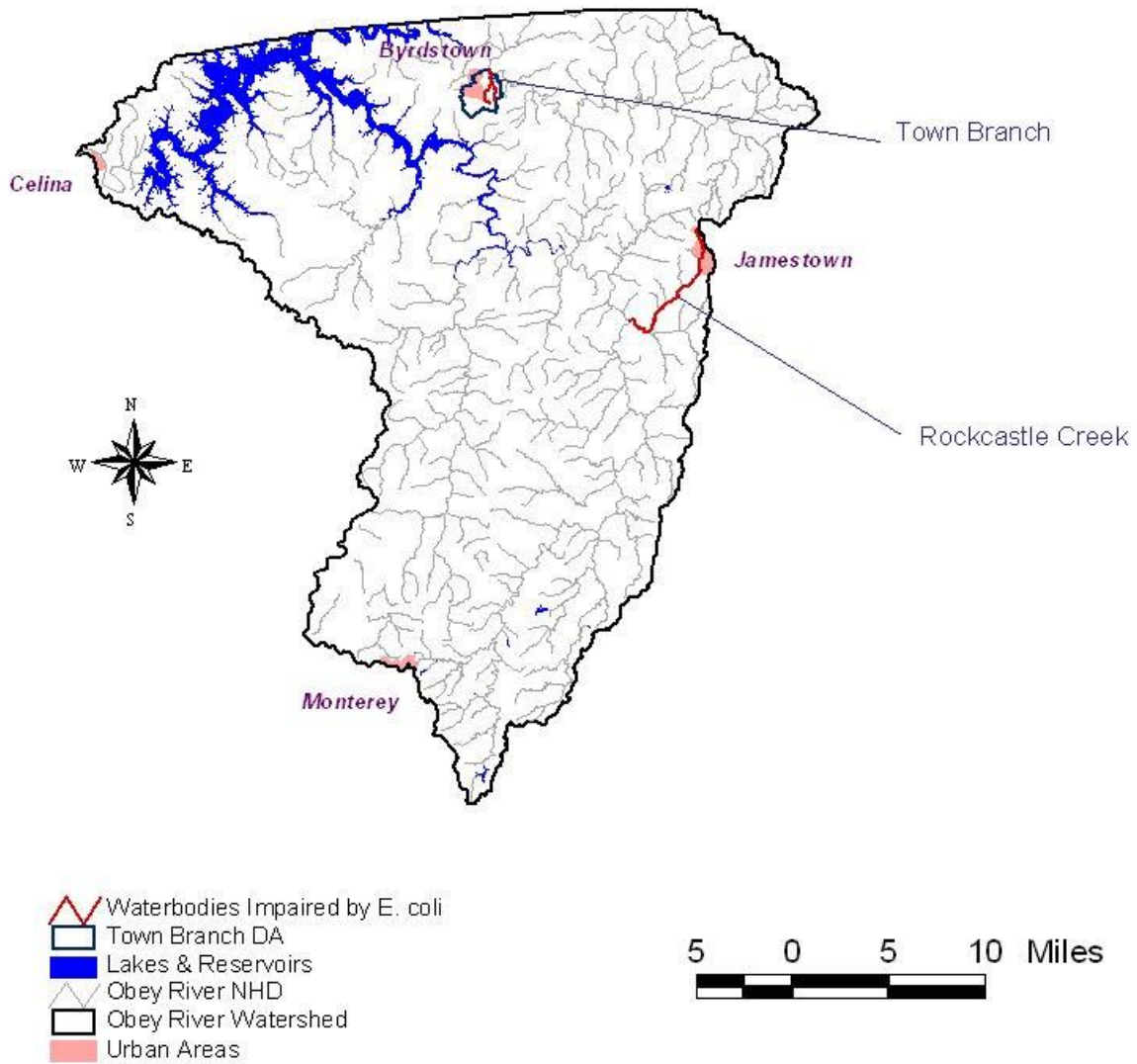


Figure 4. Waterbodies Impaired by E. Coli (as Documented on the Final 2006 303(d) List).

6.0 WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND DEVIATION FROM TARGET

There are multiple water quality monitoring stations that provide data for waterbodies identified as impaired for E. coli in the Obey River Watershed. Monitoring stations located on high quality waters have been italicized:

- HUC-12 05130105_0107:
 - ROCKC004.7FE – Rockcastle Creek, 300 ft d/s Jamestown STP outfall, d/s Jamestown
 - ROCKC004.75FE – Rockcastle Creek, 70 ft u/s Jamestown STP outfall
 - ROCKC005.4FE – Rockcastle Creek, d/s Gouldstown Rd., u/s Jamestown STP
 - ROCKC006.4FE – Rockcastle Creek, at Industrial Rd.
- HUC-12 05130105_0403:
 - *TOWN000.1PI – Town Branch, d/s Byrdstown STP outfall*
 - *TOWN000.8PI – Town Branch, u/s Byrdstown STP, near Huddleston cemetery*

The location of these monitoring stations is shown in Figure 5. Water quality monitoring results for these stations are tabulated in Appendix B. Examination of the data shows exceedances of the 487 CFU/100 mL (lakes, reservoirs, State Scenic Rivers, or Tier II or Tier III waterbodies) and 941 CFU/100 mL (all other waterbodies) maximum E. coli standard. Water quality monitoring results for those stations with 10% or more of samples exceeding water quality maximum criteria are summarized in Table 3. Whenever a minimum of 5 samples was collected at a given monitoring station over a period of not more than 30 consecutive days, the geometric mean was calculated.

One of the water quality monitoring stations (Table 3 and Appendix B) has at least one E. coli sample value reported as >2400. In addition, at the same site, the maximum E. coli sample value is >2400. For the purpose of calculating summary data statistics, TMDLs, Waste Load Allocations (WLAs), and Load Allocations (LAs), these data values are treated as (equal to) 2400. Therefore, the calculated results are considered to be estimates. Future E. coli sample analyses at these sites should follow established protocol. See Section 9.4.

Table 3 Summary of TDEC Water Quality Monitoring Data

Monitoring Station	Date Range	E. Coli (Max WQ Target = 941 CFU/100 mL)**				
		Data Pts.	Min.	Avg.	Max.	No. Exceed. WQ Max. Target
			[CFU/100 mL]	[CFU/100 mL]	[CFU/100 mL]	
TOWN000.1PI	2000 – 2006	19	16	864	>2,400	8

** Maximum water quality target is 487 CFU/100 mL for lakes, reservoirs, State Scenic Rivers, or Tier II or Tier III waterbodies and 941 CFU/100 mL for other waterbodies. Waterbodies utilizing the 487 CFU/100 mL target are italicized.

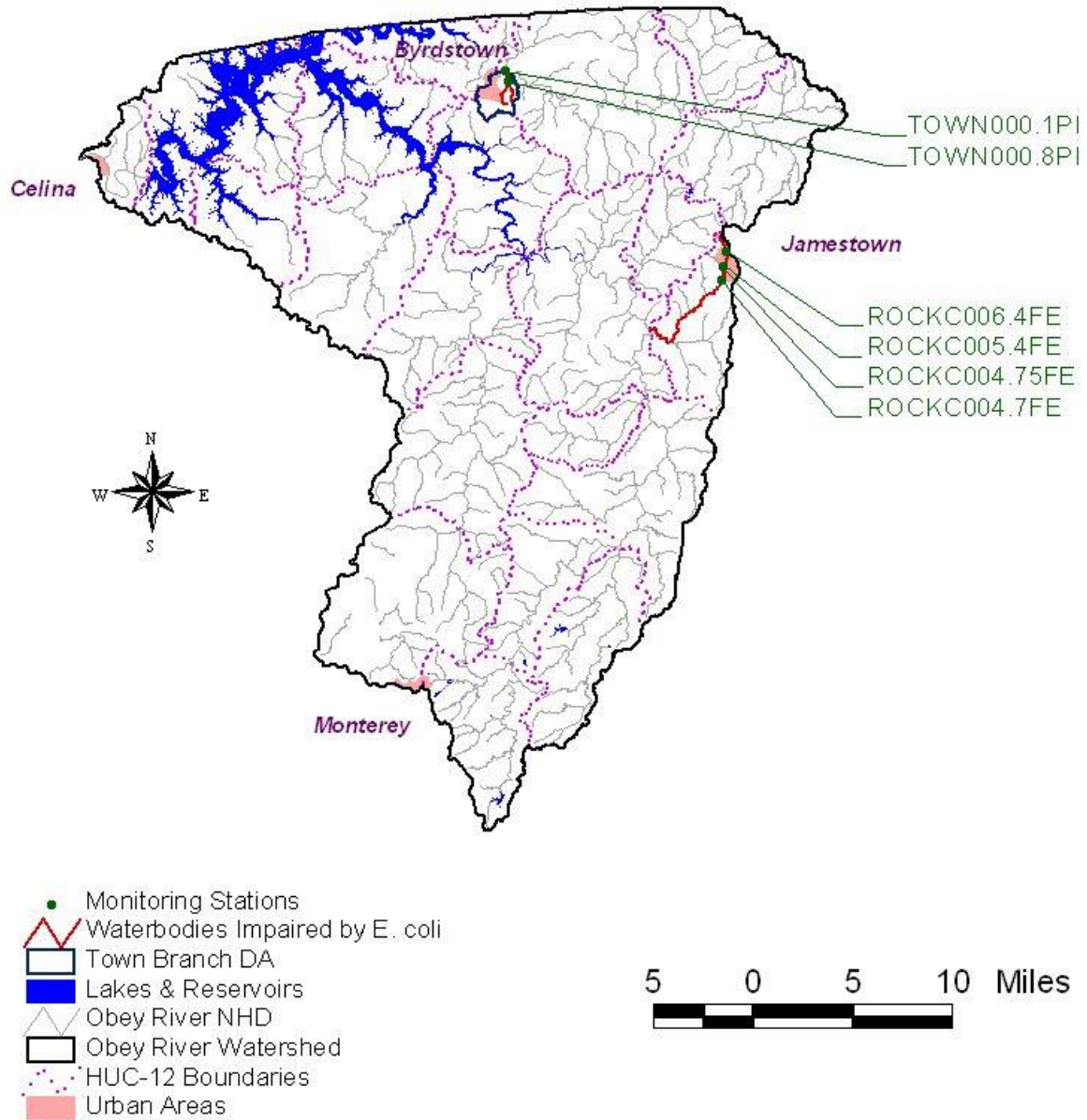


Figure 5. Water Quality Monitoring Stations in the Obey River Watershed

7.0 SOURCE ASSESSMENT

An important part of TMDL analysis is the identification of individual sources, or source categories of pollutants in the watershed that affect pathogen loading and the amount of loading contributed by each of these sources.

Under the Clean Water Act, sources are classified as either point or nonpoint sources. Under 40 CFR §122.2, (<http://www.epa.gov/epacfr40/chapt-l.info/chi-toc.htm>), a point source is defined as a discernable, confined, and discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged to surface waters. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program (<http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/index.cfm>) regulates point source discharges. Point sources can be described by three broad categories: 1) NPDES regulated municipal (http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=13) and industrial (http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=14) wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs); 2) NPDES regulated industrial and municipal storm water discharges (http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=6); and 3) NPDES regulated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) (http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=7). A TMDL must provide Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) for all NPDES regulated point sources. Nonpoint sources are diffuse sources that cannot be identified as entering a waterbody through a discrete conveyance at a single location. For the purposes of this TMDL, all sources of pollutant loading not regulated by NPDES permits are considered nonpoint sources. The TMDL must provide a Load Allocation (LA) for these sources.

7.1 Point Sources

7.1.1 NPDES Regulated Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Both treated and untreated sanitary wastewater contain coliform bacteria. There are 7 WWTFs in the Obey River Watershed that have NPDES permits authorizing the discharge of treated sanitary wastewater. Two of these facilities are located in an impaired subwatershed or drainage area (see Table 4 & Figure 6). The permit limits for discharges from this WWTF are in accordance with the coliform criteria specified in Tennessee Water Quality Standards for the protection of the recreation use classification.

Non-permitted point sources of (potential) E. coli contamination of surface waters associated with STP collection systems include leaking collection systems and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Note: As stated in Section 5.0, the current coliform criteria are expressed in terms of E. coli concentration, whereas previous criteria were expressed in terms of fecal coliform and E. coli concentration. Due to differences in permit issuance dates, some permits still have fecal coliform limits instead of E. coli. As permits are reissued, limits for fecal coliform will be replaced by E. coli limits.

Table 4 NPDES Permitted WWTFs in Impaired Subwatersheds or Drainage Areas

NPDES Permit No.	Facility	Design Flow	Receiving Stream
		[MGD]	
TN0062626	Byrdstown STP	0.6	Unnamed trib at Mile 0.4 to Town Branch at Mile 0.1
TN0062634	Jamestown STP	1.0	Rockcastle Creek at Mile 4.75

7.1.2 NPDES Regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) are considered to be point sources of E. coli. Discharges from MS4s occur in response to storm events through road drainage systems, curb and gutter systems, ditches, and storm drains. Phase I of the EPA storm water program (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swphases.cfm#phase1>) requires large and medium MS4s to obtain NPDES storm water permits. Large and medium MS4s are those located in incorporated places or counties serving populations greater than 100,000 people. At present, there are no MS4s of this size in the Obey River Watershed.

As of March 2003, regulated small MS4s in Tennessee must also obtain NPDES permits in accordance with the Phase II storm water program (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swphases.cfm#phase2>). A small MS4 is designated as *regulated* if: a) it is located within the boundaries of a defined urbanized area that has a residential population of at least 50,000 people and an overall population density of 1,000 people per square mile; b) it is located outside of an urbanized area but within a jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 people, a population density of 1,000 people per square mile, and has the potential to cause an adverse impact on water quality; or c) it is located outside of an urbanized area but contributes substantially to the pollutant loadings of a physically interconnected MS4 regulated by the NPDES storm water program. Most regulated small MS4s in Tennessee obtain coverage under the *NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems* (<http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/TN%20Small%20MS4%20Modified%20General%20Permit%202003.pdf>) (TDEC, 2003). At present, there are no MS4s of this size in the Obey River Watershed.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has been issued an individual MS4 permit (TNS077585) that authorizes discharges of storm water runoff from State roads and interstate highway right-of-ways that TDOT owns or maintains, discharges of storm water runoff from TDOT owned or operated facilities, and certain specified non-storm water discharges. This permit covers all eligible TDOT discharges statewide, including those located outside of urbanized areas. TDOT's individual MS4 permit may be obtained from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) website: <http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/stormh2o/TNS077585.pdf>.

For information regarding storm water permitting in Tennessee, see the TDEC website:

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/stormh2o/>

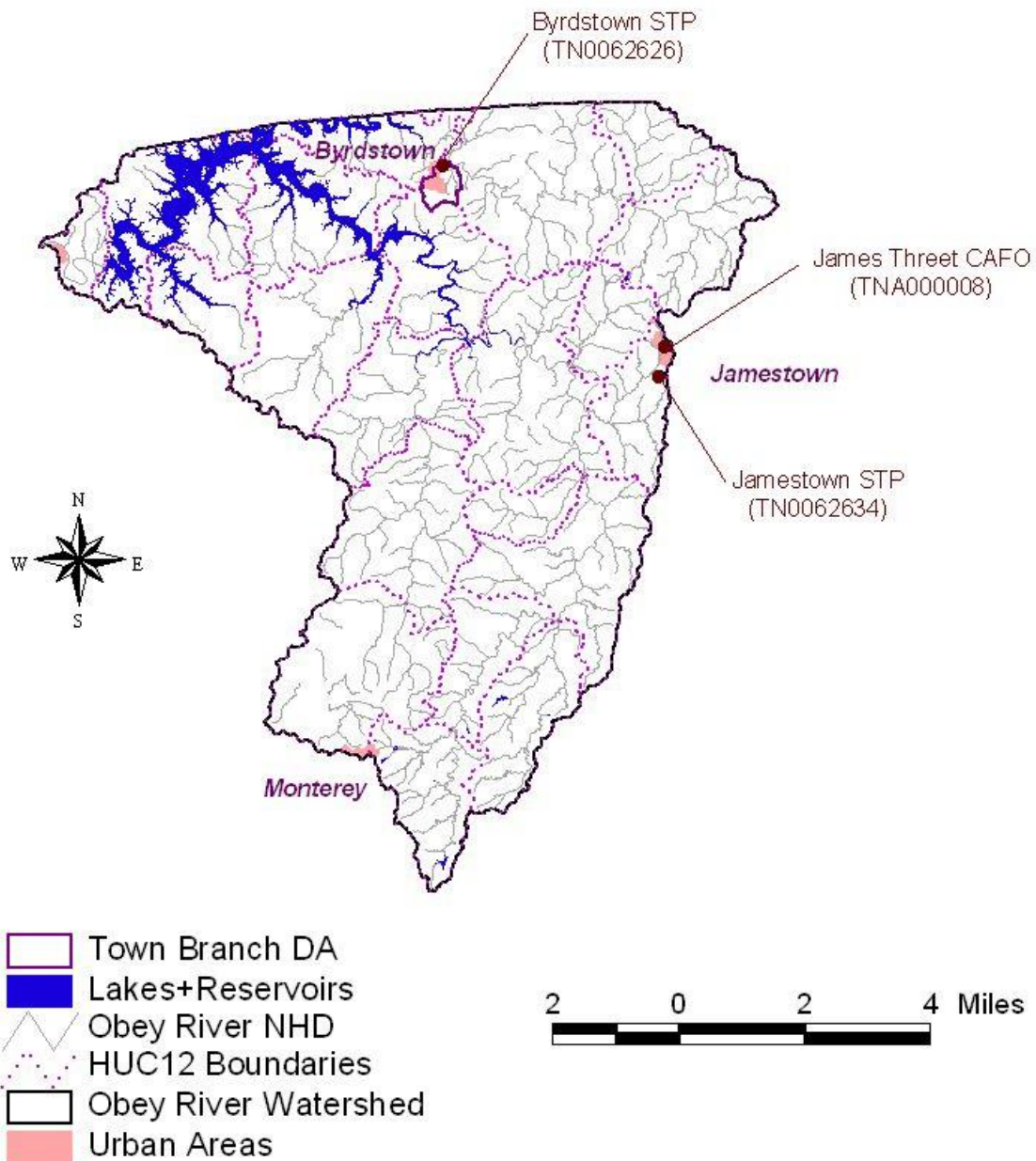


Figure 6. NPDES Regulated Point Sources in and near Impaired Subwatersheds and Drainage Areas of the Obey River Watershed.

7.1.3 NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

Animal feeding operations (AFOs) are agricultural enterprises where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. AFOs congregate animals, feed, manure and urine, dead animals, and production operations on a small land area. Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures, fields, or on rangeland (USEPA, 2002a). Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are AFOs that meet certain criteria with respect to animal type, number of animals, and type of manure management system. CAFOs are considered to be potential point sources of pathogen loading and are required to obtain an NPDES permit. Most CAFOs in Tennessee obtain coverage under TNA000000, *Class II Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation General Permit* (<http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/CAFO%20Final%20PDF%20Modified.pdf>), while larger, Class I CAFOs are required to obtain an individual NPDES permit.

As of September 13, 2007, there are 7 Class I CAFOs with individual permits and 5 Class II CAFOs with coverage under the general NPDES permit located in the Obey River Watershed. None of these facilities are located in an impaired Subwatershed or drainage area. There is 1 Class II CAFO (James Threet, TNA000008) with pending coverage under the general NPDES permit located in an impaired subwatershed or drainage area.

7.2 Nonpoint Sources

Nonpoint sources of coliform bacteria are diffuse sources that cannot be identified as entering a waterbody through a discrete conveyance at a single location. These sources generally, but not always, involve accumulation of coliform bacteria on land surfaces and wash off as a result of storm events. Nonpoint sources of E. coli loading are primarily associated with agricultural and urban land uses. Many of the waterbodies identified on the Final 2006 303(d) list as impaired due to E. coli are attributed to nonpoint sources.

7.2.1 Wildlife

Wildlife deposit coliform bacteria, with their feces, onto land surfaces where it can be transported during storm events to nearby streams. The overall deer density for Tennessee was estimated by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to be 23 animals per square mile.

7.2.2 Agricultural Animals

Agricultural activities can be a significant source of coliform bacteria loading to surface waters. The activities of greatest concern are typically those associated with livestock operations:

- Agricultural livestock grazing in pastures deposit manure containing coliform bacteria onto land surfaces. This material accumulates during periods of dry weather and is available for washoff and transport to surface waters during storm events. The number of animals in pasture and the time spent grazing are important factors in determining the loading contribution.
- Processed agricultural manure from confined feeding operations is often applied to land surfaces and can provide a significant source of coliform bacteria loading. Guidance for issues relating to manure application is available through the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Agricultural livestock and other unconfined animals often have direct access to waterbodies and can provide a concentrated source of coliform bacteria loading directly to a stream.

Data sources related to livestock operations include the 2002 Census of Agriculture (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/census02/volume1/tn/index2.htm>). Livestock data for counties located within the Obey River watershed are summarized in Table 5. Note that, due to confidentiality issues, any tabulated item that identifies data reported by a respondent or allows a respondent's data to be accurately estimated or derived is suppressed and coded with a 'D' (USDA, 2004).

Table 5 Livestock Distribution in the Obey River Watershed

County	Livestock Population (2002 Census of Agriculture)						
	Beef Cow	Milk Cow	Poultry		Hogs	Sheep	Horse
			Layers	Broilers			
Clay	D	D	597	1,509,122	366	199	967
Cumberland	10,420	2,128	D	2,488	1,503	911	1,647
Fentress	9,496	602	676	1,721,709	328	104	989
Overton	19,283	1,348	2,111	D	455	94	1,478
Pickett	D	D	147	391,008	152	68	462
Putnam	13,836	934	1,801	313	748	407	1,968

* In keeping with the provisions of Title 7 of the United States Code, no data are published in the 2002 Census of Agriculture that would disclose information about the operations of an individual farm or ranch. Any tabulated item that identifies data reported by a respondent or allows a respondent's data to be accurately estimated or derived is suppressed and coded with a 'D' (USDA, 2004).

7.2.3 Failing Septic Systems

Some of the coliform loading in the Obey River Watershed can be attributed to failure of septic systems and illicit discharges of raw sewage. Estimates from 1997 county census data of people in the Obey River Watershed utilizing septic systems were compiled using the WCS and are summarized in Table 6. In middle and eastern Tennessee, it is estimated that there are approximately 2.37 people per household on septic systems, some of which can be reasonably assumed to be failing. As with livestock in streams, discharges of raw sewage provide a concentrated source of coliform bacteria directly to waterbodies.

7.2.4 Urban Development

Nonpoint source loading of coliform bacteria from urban land use areas is attributable to multiple sources. These include: stormwater runoff, illicit discharges of sanitary waste, runoff from improper disposal of waste materials, leaking septic systems, and domestic animals. Impervious surfaces in urban areas allow runoff to be conveyed to streams quickly, without interaction with soils and groundwater. Urban land use area in impaired subwatersheds in the Obey River Watershed ranges from 6% to 10%. Land use for the Obey River impaired drainage areas is summarized in Figures 7 and 8 and tabulated in Appendix A.

Table 6 Estimated Population on Septic Systems in the Obey River Watershed

County	Total Population (2000 Census)	Population on Septic Systems
Clay	7,976	0
Cumberland	46,802	34,736
Fentress	16,625	13,307
Overton	20,118	780
Pickett	4,945	3,818
Putnam	62,315	3,224

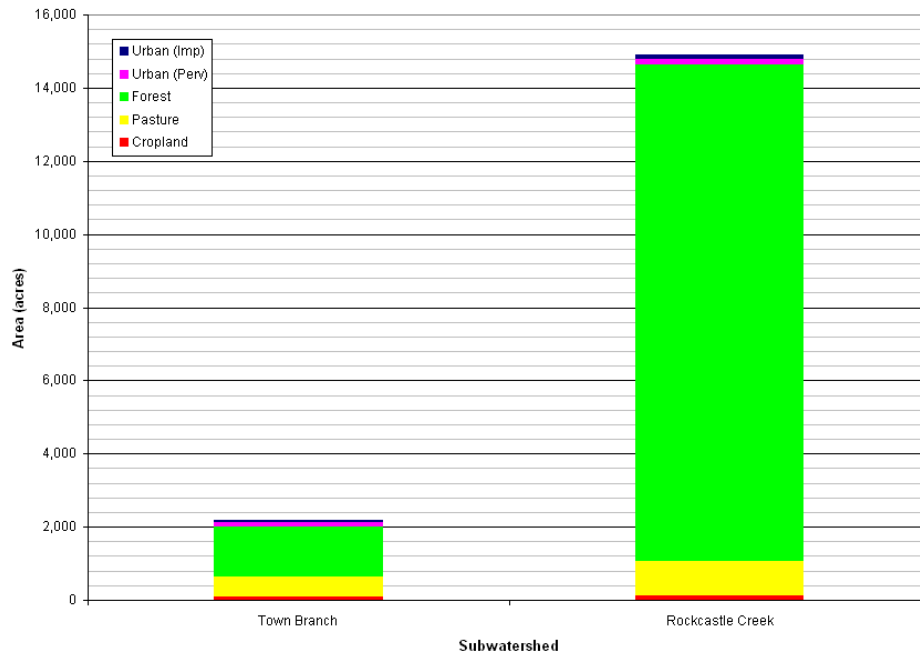


Figure 7. Land Use Area of Obey River E. coli-Impaired Subwatersheds

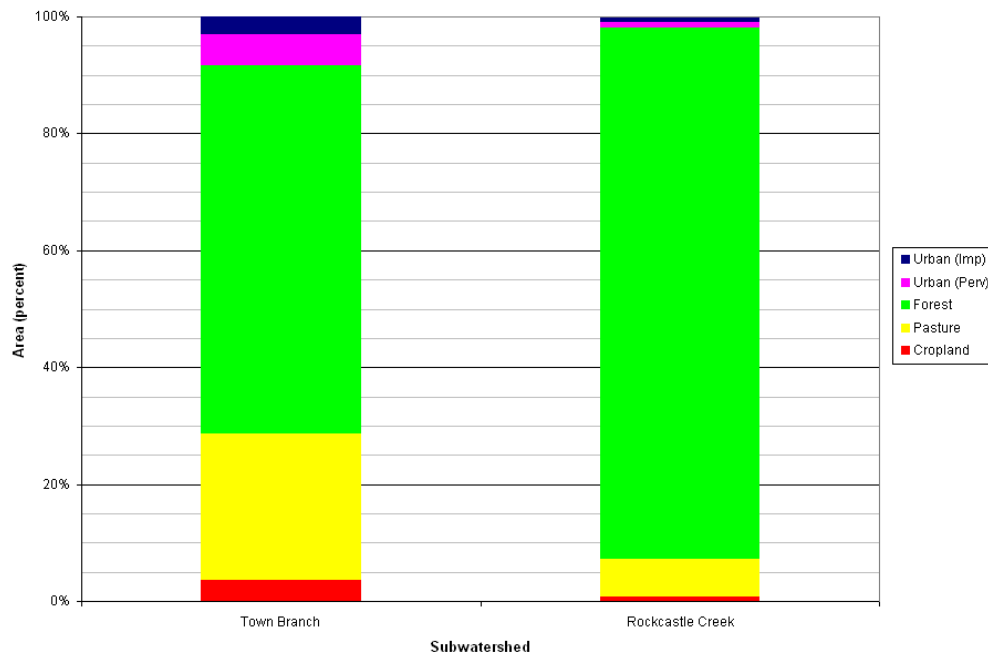


Figure 8. Land Use Percent of the Obey River E. coli-Impaired Subwatersheds

8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process quantifies the amount of a pollutant that can be assimilated in a waterbody, identifies the sources of the pollutant, and recommends regulatory or other actions to be taken to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards based on the relationship between pollution sources and in-stream water quality conditions. A TMDL can be expressed as the sum of all point source loads (Waste Load Allocations), non-point source loads (Load Allocations), and an appropriate margin of safety (MOS) that takes into account any uncertainty concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality:

$$\text{TMDL} = \Sigma \text{WLAs} + \Sigma \text{LAs} + \text{MOS}$$

The objective of a TMDL is to allocate loads among all of the known pollutant sources throughout a watershed so that appropriate control measures can be implemented and water quality standards achieved. 40 CFR §130.2 (i) (<http://www.epa.gov/epacfr40/chapt-I.info/chi-toc.htm>) states that TMDLs can be expressed in terms of mass per time, toxicity, or other appropriate measure.

This document describes TMDL, Waste Load Allocation (WLA), Load Allocation (LA), and Margin of Safety (MOS) development for waterbodies identified as impaired due to E. coli on the Final 2006 303(d) list.

8.1 Expression of TMDLs, WLAs, & LAs

In this document, the E. coli TMDL is a daily load expressed as a function of mean daily flow (daily loading function). For implementation purposes, corresponding percent load reduction goals (PLRGs) to decrease E. coli loads to TMDL target levels, within each respective flow zone, are also expressed. WLAs & LAs for precipitation-induced loading sources are also expressed as daily loading functions in CFU/day/acre. Allocations for loading that is independent of precipitation (WLAs for WWTFs and LAs for “other direct sources”) are expressed as CFU/day.

8.2 Area Basis for TMDL Analysis

The primary area unit of analysis for TMDL development was the HUC-12 subwatershed containing one or more waterbodies assessed as impaired due to E. coli (as documented on the 2006 303(d) List). In some cases, however, TMDLs were developed for an impaired waterbody drainage area only. Determination of the appropriate area to use for analysis (see Table 7) was based on a careful consideration of a number of relevant factors, including: 1) location of impaired waterbodies in the HUC-12 subwatershed; 2) land use type and distribution; 3) water quality monitoring data; and 4) the assessment status of other waterbodies in the HUC-12 subwatershed.

Table 7 Determination of Analysis Areas for TMDL Development

HUC-12 Subwatershed (05130105____)	Impaired Waterbody	Area
0107	Rockcastle Creek	HUC-12
0403	Town Branch	DA

Note: HUC-12 = HUC-12 Subwatershed
DA = Waterbody Drainage Area

8.3 TMDL Analysis Methodology

TMDLs for the Obey River Watershed were developed using load duration curves for analysis of impaired HUC-12 subwatersheds or specific waterbody drainage areas. A load duration curve (LDC) is a cumulative frequency graph that illustrates existing water quality conditions (as represented by loads calculated from monitoring data), how these conditions compare to desired targets, and the portion of the waterbody flow zone represented by these existing loads. Load duration curves are considered to be well suited for analysis of periodic monitoring data collected by grab sample. LDCs were developed at monitoring site locations in impaired waterbodies and daily loading functions were expressed for TMDLs, WLAs, LAs, and MOS. In addition, load reductions (PLRGs) for each flow zone were calculated for prioritization of implementation measures according to the methods described in Appendix E.

8.4 Critical Conditions and Seasonal Variation

The critical condition for non-point source E. coli loading is an extended dry period followed by a rainfall runoff event. During the dry weather period, E. coli bacteria builds up on the land surface, and is washed off by rainfall. The critical condition for point source loading occurs during periods of low streamflow when dilution is minimized. Both conditions are represented in the TMDL analysis.

The ten-year period from October 1, 1995 to September 30, 2005 was used to simulate flow. This 10-year period contained a range of hydrologic conditions that included both low and high streamflows. Critical conditions are accounted for in the load duration curve analyses by using the entire period of flow and water quality data available for the impaired waterbodies.

In all subwatersheds, water quality data have been collected during most flow ranges. For each Subwatershed, the critical flow zone has been identified based on the incremental levels of impairment relative to the target loads. Based on the location of the water quality exceedances on the load duration curves and the distribution of critical flow zones, no one delivery mode for E. coli appears to be dominant for waterbodies in the Obey River watershed (see Section 9.3 and Table 8).

Seasonal variation was incorporated in the load duration curves by using the entire simulation period and all water quality data collected at the monitoring stations. The water quality data were collected during all seasons.

8.5 Margin of Safety

There are two methods for incorporating MOS in TMDL analysis: a) implicitly incorporate the MOS using conservative model assumptions; or b) explicitly specify a portion of the TMDL as the MOS and use the remainder for allocations. For development of pathogen TMDLs in the Obey River Watershed, an explicit MOS, equal to 10% of the E. coli water quality targets (ref.: Section 5.0), was utilized for determination of WLAs and LAs:

Instantaneous Maximum (lakes, reservoirs, State Scenic Rivers, or Tier II or Tier III waterbodies):	MOS = 49 CFU/100 ml
Instantaneous Maximum (all other waterbodies):	MOS = 94 CFU/100 ml
30-Day Geometric Mean:	MOS = 13 CFU/100 ml

8.6 Determination of TMDLs

E. coli daily loading functions were calculated for impaired segments in the Obey River Watershed using LDCs to evaluate compliance with the single maximum target concentrations according to the procedure in Appendix C. These TMDL loading functions for impaired segments and subwatersheds are shown in Table 9.

8.7 Determination of WLAs & LAs

WLAs for MS4s and LAs for precipitation induced sources of E. coli loading were determined according to the procedures in Appendix C. These allocations represent the available loading after application of the explicit MOS. WLAs for existing WWTFs are equal to their existing NPDES permit limits. Since WWTF permit limits require that E. coli concentrations must comply with water quality criteria (TMDL targets) at the point of discharge and recognition that loading from these facilities are generally small in comparison to other loading sources, further reductions were not considered to be warranted. WLAs for CAFOs and LAs for "other direct sources" (non-precipitation induced) are equal to zero. WLAs, & LAs are summarized in Table 8.

**Table 8 TMDLs, WLAs, & LAs for Impaired Subwatersheds and Drainage Areas in the Obey River Watershed
(HUC 05130105)**

HUC-12 Subwatershed (05130105___) or Drainage Area (DA)	Impaired Waterbody Name	Impaired Waterbody ID	TMDL	MOS	WLAs			LAs
					WWTFs ^a	Leaking Collection Systems	MS4s	
			[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day]	[CFU/day/acre]	[CFU/day/acre]
0107	Rockcastle Creek	TN05130105019 – 0300	$2.30 \times 10^{10} * Q$	$2.30 \times 10^9 * Q$	3.562×10^{10}	0	NA	$4.052 \times 10^7 * Q - 6.972 \times 10^7$
0403(DA)	Town Branch	TN05130105033 – 1400	$1.20 \times 10^{10} * Q$	$1.20 \times 10^9 * Q$	1.103×10^{10}	0	NA	$5.219 \times 10^6 * Q - 5.345 \times 10^6$

Notes: NA = Not Applicable.

- a. WLAs for WWTFs are expressed as E. coli loads (CFU/day). All current and future WWTFs must meet water quality standards at the point of discharge as specified in their NPDES permit; at no time shall concentration be greater than the appropriate E. coli standard (487 CFU/100 mL or 941 CFU/100 mL).

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The TMDLs, WLAs, and LAs developed in Section 8 are intended to be the first phase of a long-term effort to restore the water quality of impaired waterbodies in the Obey River watershed through reduction of excessive E. coli loading. Adaptive management methods, within the context of the State's rotating watershed management approach, will be used to modify TMDLs, WLAs, and LAs as required to meet water quality goals.

TMDL implementation activities will be accomplished within the framework of Tennessee's Watershed Approach (ref: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/>). The Watershed Approach is based on a five-year cycle and encompasses planning, monitoring, assessment, TMDLs, WLAs/LAs, and permit issuance. It relies on participation at the federal, state, local and non-governmental levels to be successful.

9.1 Application of Load Duration Curves for Implementation Planning

The Load Duration Curve (LCD) methodology (Appendix C) is a form of water quality analysis and presentation of data that aids in guiding implementation by targeting management strategies for appropriate flow conditions. One of the strengths of this method is that it can be used to interpret possible delivery mechanisms of E. coli by differentiating between point and non-point source problems. The load duration curve analysis can be utilized for implementation planning. See Cleland (2003) for further information on duration curves and TMDL development, and: <http://www.tmdls.net/tipstools/docs/TMDLsCleland.pdf>.

9.1.1 Flow Zone Analysis for Implementation Planning

A major advantage of the duration curve framework in TMDL development is the ability to provide meaningful connections between allocations and implementation efforts (USEPA, 2006). Because the flow duration interval serves as a general indicator of hydrologic condition (i.e., wet versus dry and to what degree), allocations and reduction goals can be linked to source areas, delivery mechanisms, and the appropriate set of management practices. The use of duration curve zones (e.g., high flow, moist, mid-range, dry, and low flow) allows the development of allocation tables (USEPA, 2006) (Appendix E), which can be used to guide potential implementation actions to most effectively address water quality concerns.

For the purposes of implementation strategy development, available E. coli data are grouped according to flow zones, with the number of flow zones determined by the HUC-12 subwatershed or drainage area size, the total contributing area (for non-headwater HUC-12s), and/or the baseflow characteristics of the waterbody. In general, for drainage areas greater than 40 square miles, the duration curves will be divided into five zones (Figure 9): high flows (exceeded 0-10% of the time), moist conditions (10-40%), median or mid-range flows (40-60%), dry conditions (60-90%), and low flows (90-100%). For smaller drainage areas, flows occurring in the low flow zone (baseflow conditions) are often extremely low and difficult to measure accurately. In many small drainage areas, extreme dry conditions are characterized by zero flow for a significant percentage of time. For this reason, the low flow zone is best characterized as a broader range of conditions (or percent time) with subsequently fewer flow zones. Therefore, for most HUC-12 subwatershed drainage areas less than 40 square miles, the duration curves will be divided into four zones: high flows (exceeded 0-10% of the time), moist conditions (10-40%), median or mid-range flows (40-70%), and low flows (70-100%). Some small (<40 mi²) waterbody drainage areas have sustained baseflow (no

zero flows) throughout their period of record. For these waterbodies, the duration curves will be divided into five zones.

Given adequate data, results (allocations and percent load reduction goals) will be calculated for all flow zones; however, less emphasis is placed on the upper 10% flow range for pathogen (E. coli) TMDLs and implementation plans. The highest 10 percent flows, representing flood conditions, are considered non-recreational conditions: unsafe for wading and swimming. Humans are not expected to enter the water due to the inherent hazard from high depths and velocities during these flow conditions. As a rule of thumb, the *USGS Field Manual for the Collection of Water Quality Data* (Lane, 1997) advises its personnel not to attempt to wade a stream for which values of depth (ft) multiplied by velocity (ft/s) equal or exceed 10 ft²/s to collect a water sample. Few observations are typically available to estimate loads under these adverse conditions due to the difficulty and danger of sample collection. Therefore, in general, the 0-10% flow range is beyond the scope of pathogen TMDLs and subsequent implementation strategies.

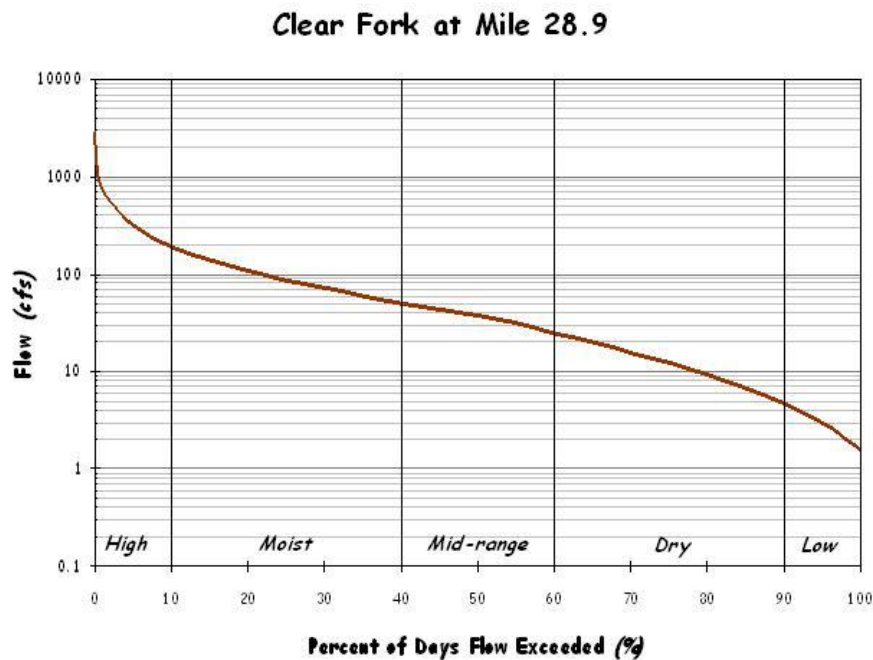


Figure 9. Five-Zone Flow Duration Curve for Clear Fork at RM 28.9

9.1.2 Existing Loads and Percent Load Reductions

Each impaired waterbody has a characteristic set of pollutant sources and existing loading conditions that vary according to flow conditions. In addition, maximum allowable loading (assimilative capacity) of a waterbody varies with flow. Therefore, existing loading, allowable loading, and percent load reduction expressed at a single location on the LDC (for a single flow condition) do not appropriately represent the TMDL in order to address all sources under all flow conditions (i.e., at all times) to satisfy implementation objectives. The LDC approach provides a methodology for determination of assimilative capacity and existing loading conditions of a waterbody for each flow zone. Subsequently, each flow zone, and the sources contributing to impairment under the corresponding flow conditions, can be evaluated independently. Lastly, the critical flow zone (with the highest percent load reduction goal) can be identified for prioritization of implementation actions.

Existing loading is calculated for each individual water quality sample as the product of the sample flow (cfs) times the single sample E. coli concentration (times a conversion factor). A percent load reduction is calculated for each water quality sample as that required to reduce the existing loading to the product of the sample flow (cfs) times the single sample maximum water quality standard (times a conversion factor). For samples with negative percent load reductions (non-exceedance: concentration below the single sample maximum water quality criterion), the percent reduction is assumed to be zero. The percent load reduction goal (PLRG) for a given flow zone is calculated as the mean of all the percent load reductions for a given flow zone. See Appendix E.

9.1.3 Critical Conditions

The critical condition for each impaired waterbody is defined as the flow zone with the largest PLRG, excluding the “high flow” zone because these extremely high flows are not representative of recreational flow conditions, as described in Section 9.1.1. If the PLRG in this zone is greater than all the other zones, the zone with the second highest PLRG will be considered the critical flow zone. The critical conditions are such that if water quality standards were met under those conditions, they would likely be met overall.

9.2 Point Sources

9.2.1 NPDES Regulated Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facilities

All present and future discharges from industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities are required to be in compliance with the conditions of their NPDES permits at all times, including elimination of bypasses and overflows. In Tennessee, permit limits for treated sanitary wastewater require compliance with coliform water quality standards (ref: Section 5.0) prior to discharge. No additional reduction is required. WLAs for WWTFs are derived from facility design flows and permitted E. coli limits and are expressed as average loads in CFU per day.

9.2.2 NPDES Regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

For present and future regulated discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), WLAs are and will be implemented through Phase I & II MS4 permits. These permits will require the development and implementation of a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) that will reduce

the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" and not cause or contribute to violations of State water quality standards. Both the *NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems* (TDEC, 2003) and the TDOT individual MS4 permit (TNS077585) require SWMPs to include minimum control measures. The permits also contain requirements regarding control of discharges of pollutants of concern into impaired waterbodies, implementation of provisions of approved TMDLs, and descriptions of methods to evaluate whether storm water controls are adequate to meet the requirements of approved TMDLs.

For guidance on the six minimum control measures for MS4s regulated under Phase I or Phase II, a series of fact sheets are available at: http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swfinal.cfm?program_id=6.

For further information on Tennessee's *NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems*, see: <http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/TN%20Small%20MS4%20Modified%General%20Permit%202003.pdf>.

In order to evaluate SWMP effectiveness and demonstrate compliance with specified WLAs, MS4s must develop and implement appropriate monitoring programs. An effective monitoring program could include:

- Effluent monitoring at selected outfalls that are representative of particular land uses or geographical areas that contribute to pollutant loading before and after implementation of pollutant control measures.
- Analytical monitoring of pollutants of concern (e.g., monthly) in receiving waterbodies, both upstream and downstream of MS4 discharges, over an extended period of time. In addition, intensive collection of pollutant monitoring data during the recreation season (June – September) at sufficient frequency to support calculation of the geometric mean.

When applicable, the appropriate Division of Water Pollution Control Environmental Field Office should be consulted for assistance in the determination of monitoring strategies, locations, frequency, and methods within 12 months after the approval date of TMDLs or designation as a regulated MS4. Details of the monitoring plans and monitoring data should be included in annual reports required by MS4 permits.

9.2.3 NPDES Regulated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

WLAs provided to most CAFOs will be implemented through NPDES Permit No. TNA000000, General NPDES Permit for *Class II Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation* or the facility's individual permit. Provisions of the general permit include development and implementation of Nutrient Management Plan (NMPs), requirements regarding land application BMPs, and requirements for CAFO liquid waste management systems. For further information, see: <http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/CAFO%20Final%20PDF%20Modified.pdf>.

9.3 Nonpoint Sources

The Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation has no direct regulatory authority over most nonpoint source (NPS) discharges. Reductions of E. coli loading from nonpoint sources will be achieved using a phased approach. Voluntary, incentive-based mechanisms will be used to implement NPS management measures in order to assure that measurable reductions in pollutant

loadings can be achieved for the targeted impaired waters. Cooperation and active participation by the general public and various industry, business, and environmental groups is critical to successful implementation of TMDLs. There are links to a number of publications and information resources on EPA's Nonpoint Source Pollution web page (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/pubs.html>) relating to the implementation and evaluation of nonpoint source pollution control measures.

Local citizen-led and implemented management measures have the potential to provide the most efficient and comprehensive avenue for reduction of loading rates from nonpoint sources. An excellent example of stakeholder involvement is the Cumberland River Coalition. The Cumberland River Compact is a non-profit group made up of businesses, individuals, community organizations, and agencies working in the Cumberland River watershed. Members of the Compact work with educators, landowners, contractors, marinas and other interested groups to coordinate informational education programs that encourage all of us to be better stewards of our water resources. The Compact works with local, state and federal agencies and officials to promote and strengthen cooperative working relationships and encourage the development of reliable, easy-to-understand data about water quality. Members of the Compact work with local communities to develop watershed forums where citizens come together to learn more about their watershed and participate in developing a shared vision for the future. The Compact also serves as a clearing-house of available public education programs to landowner assistance. Information regarding the accomplishments of the Cumberland River Compact is available at their website:

<http://www.cumberlandrivercompact.org/>.

9.3.1 Urban Nonpoint Sources

Management measures to reduce pathogen loading from urban nonpoint sources are similar to those recommended for MS4s (Sect. 9.2.2). Specific categories of urban nonpoint sources include stormwater, illicit discharges, septic systems, pet waste, and wildlife:

Stormwater: Most mitigation measures for stormwater are not designed specifically to reduce bacteria concentrations (ENSR, 2005). Instead, BMPs are typically designed to remove sediment and other pollutants. Bacteria in stormwater runoff are, however, often attached to particulate matter. Therefore, treatment systems that remove sediment may also provide reductions in bacteria concentrations.

Illicit discharges: Removal of illicit discharges to storm sewer systems, particularly of sanitary wastes, is an effective means of reducing pathogen loading to receiving waters (ENSR, 2005). These include intentional illegal connections from commercial or residential buildings, failing septic systems, and improper disposal of sewage from campers and boats.

Septic systems: When properly installed, operated, and maintained, septic systems effectively reduce pathogen concentrations in sewage. To reduce the release of pathogens, practices can be employed to maximize the life of existing systems, identify failed systems, and replace or remove failed systems (USEPA, 2005a). Alternatively, the installation of public sewers may be appropriate.

Pet waste: If the waste is not properly disposed of, these bacteria can wash into storm drains or directly into water bodies and contribute to pathogen impairment. Encouraging pet owners to properly collect and dispose of pet waste is the primary means for reducing the impact of pet waste (USEPA, 2002b).

Wildlife: Reducing the impact of wildlife on pathogen concentrations in waterbodies generally requires either reducing the concentration of wildlife in an area or reducing their proximity to the waterbody (ENSR, 2005). The primary means for doing this is to eliminate human inducements for congregation. In addition, in some instances population control measures may be appropriate.

Two additional urban nonpoint source resource documents provided by EPA are:

National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Urban Areas (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/urbanmm/index.html>) helps citizens and municipalities in urban areas protect bodies of water from polluted runoff that can result from everyday activities. The scientifically sound techniques it presents are among the best practices known today. The guidance will also help states to implement their nonpoint source control programs and municipalities to implement their Phase II Storm Water Permit Programs (Publication Number EPA 841-B-05-004, November 2005).

The Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Urban Watersheds (<http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/pubs/600r04184/600r04184chap1.pdf>) is a comprehensive literature review on commonly used urban watershed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that heretofore was not consolidated. The purpose of this document is to serve as an information source to individuals and agencies/municipalities/watershed management groups/etc. on the existing state of BMPs in urban stormwater management (Publication Number EPA/600/R-04/184, September 2004).

9.3.2 Agricultural Nonpoint Sources

BMPs have been utilized in the Obey River watershed to reduce the amount of coliform bacteria transported to surface waters from agricultural sources. These BMPs (e.g., animal waste management systems, waste utilization, stream stabilization, fencing, heavy use area treatment, livestock exclusion, etc.) may have contributed to reductions in in-stream concentrations of coliform bacteria in one or more Obey River watershed E. coli-impaired subwatersheds during the TMDL evaluation period. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) keeps a database of BMPs implemented in Tennessee. Those listed in the Obey River watershed are shown in Figure 10. It is recommended that additional information (e.g., livestock access to streams, manure application practices, etc.) be provided and evaluated to better identify and quantify agricultural sources of coliform bacteria loading in order to minimize uncertainty in future modeling efforts.

It is further recommended that additional BMPs be implemented and monitored to document performance in reducing coliform bacteria loading to surface waters from agricultural sources. Demonstration sites for various types of BMPs should be established and maintained, and their performance (in source reduction) evaluated over a period of at least two years prior to recommendations for utilization for subsequent implementation. E. coli sampling and monitoring are recommended during low-flow (baseflow) and storm periods at sites with and without BMPs and/or before and after implementation of BMPs.

For additional information on agricultural BMPs in Tennessee, see: <http://state.tn.us/agriculture/nps/bmpa.html>.

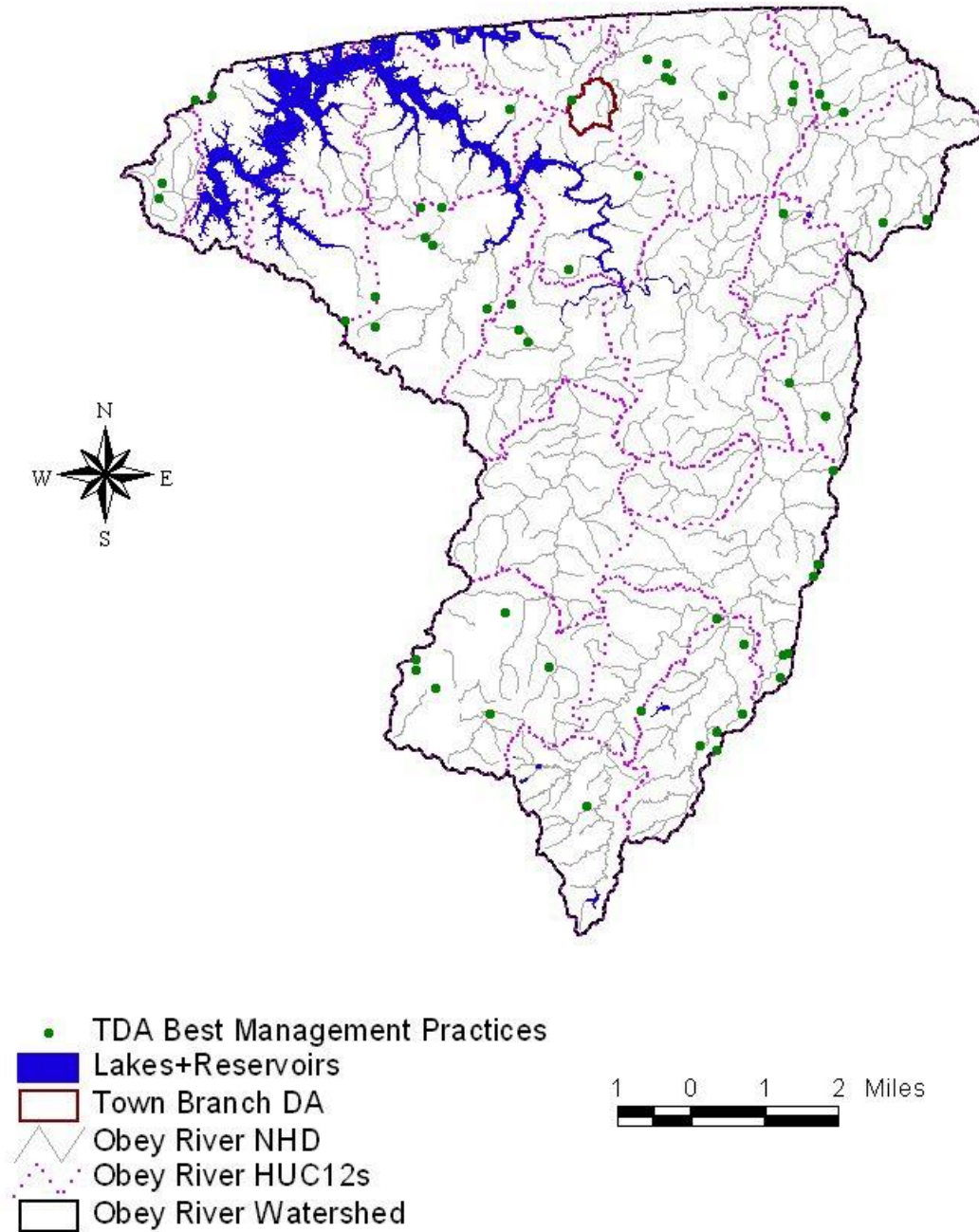


Figure 10. Tennessee Department of Agriculture Best Management Practices located in the Obey River Watershed.

An additional agricultural nonpoint source resource provided by EPA is *National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Agriculture* (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/agmm/index.html>): a technical guidance and reference document for use by State, local, and tribal managers in the implementation of nonpoint source pollution management programs. It contains information on the best available, economically achievable means of reducing pollution of surface and groundwater from agriculture (EPA 841-B-03-004, July 2003).

9.3.3 Other Nonpoint Sources

Additional nonpoint source references (not specifically addressing urban and/or agricultural sources) provided by EPA include:

National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Forestry (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/forestrygmt/>) helps forest owners protect lakes and streams from polluted runoff that can result from forestry activities. These scientifically sound techniques are the best practices known today. The report will also help states to implement their nonpoint source control programs (EPA 841-B-05-001, May 2005).

In addition, the EPA website, <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/bestnpsdocs.html>, contains a list of guidance documents endorsed by the Nonpoint Source Control Branch at EPA headquarters. The list includes documents addressing urban, agriculture, forestry, marinas, stream restoration, nonpoint source monitoring, and funding.

9.4 Additional Monitoring

Additional monitoring and assessment activities are recommended to determine whether implementation of TMDLs, WLAs, & LAs in tributaries and upstream reaches will result in achievement of in-stream water quality targets for E. coli.

9.4.1 Water Quality Monitoring

Activities recommended for the Obey River watershed:

Verify the assessment status of stream reaches identified on the Final 2006 303(d) List as impaired due to E. coli. If it is determined that these stream reaches are still not fully supporting designated uses, then sufficient data to enable development of TMDLs should be acquired. TMDLs will be revisited on 5-year watershed cycle as described above.

Evaluate the effectiveness of implementation measures (see Sect. 9.6). Includes BMP performance analysis and monitoring by permittees and stakeholders. Where required TMDL loading reduction has been fully achieved, adequate data to support delisting should be collected.

Provide additional data to clarify status of ambiguous sites (e.g., geometric mean data) for potential listing. Analyses of existing data at several monitoring sites on unlisted waterbodies in the Obey River watershed suggest levels of impairment. Therefore, additional data are required for listing determination.

Continue ambient (long-term) monitoring at appropriate sites and key locations.

Comprehensive water quality monitoring activities include sampling during all seasons and a broad range of flow and meteorological conditions. In addition, collection of E. coli data at sufficient frequency to support calculation of the geometric mean, as described in Tennessee's General Water Quality Criteria (TDEC, 2004a), is encouraged. Finally, for individual monitoring locations, where historical E. coli data are greater than 1000 colonies/100 mL (or future samples are anticipated to be), a 1:100 dilution should be performed as described in Protocol A of the *Quality System Standard Operating Procedure for Chemical and Bacteriological Sampling of Surface Water* (TDEC, 2004b).

9.4.2 Source Identification

An important aspect of E. coli load reduction activities is the accurate identification of the actual sources of pollution. In cases where the sources of E. coli impairment are not readily apparent, Microbial Source Tracking (MST) is one approach to determining the sources of fecal pollution and E. coli affecting a waterbody. Those methods that use bacteria as target organisms are also known as Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) methods. This technology is recommended for source identification in E. coli impaired waterbodies.

Bacterial Source Tracking is a collective term used for various emerging biochemical, chemical, and molecular methods that have been developed to distinguish sources of human and non-human fecal pollution in environmental samples (Shah, 2004). In general, these methods rely on genotypic (also known as "genetic fingerprinting"), or phenotypic (relating to the physical characteristics of an organism) distinctions between the bacteria of different sources. Three primary genotypic techniques are available for BST: ribotyping, pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE), and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Phenotypic techniques generally involve an antibiotic resistance analysis (Hyer, 2004).

The USEPA has published a fact sheet that discusses BST methods and presents examples of BST application to TMDL development and implementation (USEPA, 2002b). Various BST projects and descriptions of the application of BST techniques used to guide implementation of effective BMPs to remove or reduce fecal contamination are presented. The fact sheet can be found on the following EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/bacsork.pdf>.

A multi-disciplinary group of researchers at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) has developed and tested a series of different microbial assay methods based on real-time PCR to detect fecal bacterial concentrations and host sources in water samples (McKay, 2005). The assays have been used in a study of fecal contamination and have proven useful in identification of areas where cattle represent a significant fecal input and in development of BMPs. It is expected that these types of assays could have broad applications in monitoring fecal impacts from Animal Feeding Operations, as well as from wildlife and human sources. Additional information can be found on the following UTK website: <http://web.utk.edu/~hydro/Research/McKayAGU2004Abstract.pdf>.

BST technology was utilized in a study conducted in Stock Creek (Little River watershed) (Layton, 2004). Microbial source tracking using real-time PCR assays to quantify *Bacteroides* 16S rRNA genes was used to determine the percent of fecal contamination attributable to cattle. E. coli loads attributable to cattle were calculated for each of nine sampling sites in the Stock Creek subwatershed on twelve sampling dates. At the site on High Bluff Branch (tributary to Stock Creek), none of the sample dates had E. coli loads attributable to cattle above the threshold. This suggests that at this site removal of E. coli attributable to cattle would have little impact on the total E. coli loads. The E. coli load attributable to cattle made a large contribution to the total E. coli load at each of the eight remaining sampling sites. At two of the sites (STOCK005.3KN and GHOLL000.6KN), 50–75% of the E. coli attributable to cattle loads alone was above the 126 CFU/100mL threshold. This suggests that removal of the E. coli attributable to cattle at these sites would reduce the total E. coli load to acceptable limits.

9.5 Source Area Implementation Strategy

Implementation strategies are organized according to the dominant landuse type and the sources associated with each (Table 9 and Appendix E). Each HUC-12 subwatershed is grouped and targeted for implementation based on this source area organization. Three primary categories are identified: predominantly urban, predominantly agricultural, and mixed urban/agricultural. See Appendix A for information regarding landuse distribution of impaired subwatersheds. For the purpose of implementation evaluation, urban is defined as residential, commercial, and industrial landuse areas with predominant source categories such as point sources (WWTFs), collection systems/septic systems (including SSOs and CSOs), and urban stormwater runoff associated with MS4s. Agricultural is defined as cropland and pasture, with predominant source categories associated with livestock and manure management activities. A fourth category (infrequent) is associated with forested (including non-agricultural undeveloped and unaltered [by humans]) landuse areas with the predominant source category being wildlife.

All impaired waterbodies and corresponding HUC-12 subwatersheds or drainage areas have been classified according to their respective source area types in Table 9. The implementation for each area will be prioritized according to the guidance provided in Sections 9.5.1 and 9.5.2, below. For all impaired waterbodies, the determination of source area types serves to identify the predominant sources contributing to impairment (i.e., those that should be targeted initially for implementation). However, it is not intended to imply that sources in other landuse areas are not contributors to impairment and/or to grant an exemption from addressing other source area contributions with implementation strategies and corresponding load reduction. For mixed use areas, implementation will follow the guidance established for both urban and agricultural areas, at a minimum.

Appendix E provides source area implementation examples for urban and agricultural subwatersheds, development of percent load reduction goals, and determination of critical flow zones (for implementation prioritization) for E. coli impaired waterbodies. Load duration curve analyses (TMDLs, WLAs, LAs, and MOS) and percent load reduction goals for all flow zones for all E. coli impaired waterbodies in the Obey River watershed are summarized in Table E-5.

Table 9. Source area types for waterbody drainage area analyses.

Waterbody ID	Source Area Type*			
	Urban	Agricultural	Mixed	Forested
Rockcastle Creek			✓	
Town Branch			✓	

* All waterbodies potentially have significant source contributions from other source type/landuse areas.

9.5.1 Urban Source Areas

For impaired waterbodies and corresponding HUC-12 subwatersheds or drainage areas classified as predominantly urban, implementation strategies for E. coli load reduction will initially and primarily target source categories similar to those listed in Table 10 (USEPA, 2006). Table 10 presents example urban area management practices and the corresponding potential relative effectiveness under each of the hydrologic flow zones. Each implementation strategy addresses a range of flow conditions and targets point sources, non-point sources, or a combination of each. For each waterbody, the existing loads and corresponding PLRG for each flow zone are calculated according to the method described in Section E.4. The resulting determination of the critical flow zone further focuses the types of urban management practices appropriate for development of an effective load reduction strategy for a particular waterbody.

9.5.2 Agricultural Source Areas

For impaired waterbodies and corresponding HUC-12 subwatersheds or drainage areas classified as predominantly agricultural, implementation strategies for E. coli load reduction will initially and primarily target source categories similar to those listed in Table 11 (USDA, 1988). Table 11 present example agricultural area management practices and the corresponding potential relative effectiveness under each of the hydrologic flow zones. Each implementation strategy addresses a range of flow conditions and targets point sources, non-point sources, or a combination of each. For each waterbody, the existing loads and corresponding PLRG for each flow zone are calculated according to the method described in Section E.4. The resulting determination of the critical flow zone further focuses the types of agricultural management practices appropriate for development of an effective load reduction strategy for a particular waterbody.

9.5.3 Forestry Source Areas

There are no impaired waterbodies with corresponding HUC-12 subwatersheds or drainage areas classified as source area type predominantly forested, with the predominant source category being wildlife, in the Obey River watershed.

Table 10. Example Urban Area Management Practice/Hydrologic Flow Zone Considerations.

Management Practice	Duration Curve Zone (Flow Zone)				
	High	Moist	Mid-Range	Dry	Low
Bacteria source reduction					
Remove illicit discharges			L	M	H
Address pet & wildlife waste		H	M	M	L
Combined sewer overflow management					
Combined sewer separation		H	M	L	
CSO prevention practices		H	M	L	
Sanitary sewer system					
Infiltration/Inflow mitigation	H	M	L	L	
Inspection, maintenance, and repair		L	M	H	H
SSO repair/abatement	H	M	L		
Illegal cross-connections					
Septic system management					
Managing private systems		L	M	H	M
Replacing failed systems		L	M	H	M
Installing public sewers		L	M	H	M
Storm water infiltration/retention					
Infiltration basin		L	M	H	
Infiltration trench		L	M	H	
Infiltration/Biofilter swale		L	M	H	
Storm Water detention					
Created wetland		H	M	L	
Low impact development					
Disconnecting impervious areas		L	M	H	
Bioretention	L	M	H	H	
Pervious pavement		L	M	H	
Green Roof		L	M	H	
Buffers		H	H	H	
New/existing on-site wastewater treatment systems					
Permitting & installation programs		L	M	H	M
Operation & maintenance programs		L	M	H	M
Other					
Point source controls		L	M	H	H
Landfill control		L	M	H	
Riparian buffers		H	H	H	

Table 10 (cont'd). Example Urban Area Management Practice/Hydrologic Flow Zone Considerations.

Management Practice	Duration Curve Zone (Flow Zone)				
	High	Moist	Mid-Range	Dry	Low
Pet waste education & ordinances		M	H	H	L
Wildlife management		M	H	H	L
Inspection & maintenance of BMPs	L	M	H	H	L
Note: Potential relative importance of management practice effectiveness under given hydrologic condition (H: High, M: Medium, L: Low)					

Table 11. Example Agricultural Area Management Practice/Hydrologic Flow Zone Considerations.

Flow Condition	High	Moist	Mid-range	Dry	Low
% Time Flow Exceeded	0-10	10-40	40-60	60-90	90-100
Grazing Management					
Prescribed Grazing (528A)	H	H	M	L	
Pasture & Hayland Mgmt (510)	H	H	M	L	
Deferred Grazing (352)	H	H	M	L	
Planned Grazing System (556)	H	H	M	L	
Proper Grazing Use (528)	H	H	M	L	
Proper Woodland Grazing (530)	H	H	M	L	
Livestock Access Limitation					
Livestock Exclusion (472)			M	H	H
Fencing (382)			M	H	H
Stream Crossing			M	H	H
Alternate Water Supply					
Pipeline (516)			M	H	H
Pond (378)			M	H	H
Trough or Tank (614)			M	H	H
Well (642)			M	H	H
Spring Development (574)			M	H	H

Table 11 (cont'd). Example Agricultural Area Management Practice/Hydrologic Flow Zone Considerations.

Flow Condition	High	Moist	Mid-range	Dry	Low
% Time Flow Exceeded	0-10	10-40	40-60	60-90	90-100
Manure Management					
Managing Barnyards	H	H	M	L	
Manure Transfer (634)	H	H	M	L	
Land Application of Manure	H	H	M	L	
Composting Facility (317)	H	H	M	L	
Vegetative Stabilization					
Pasture & Hayland Planting (512)	H	H	M	L	
Range Seeding (550)	H	H	M	L	
Channel Vegetation (322)	H	H	M	L	
Brush (& Weed) Mgmt (314)	H	H	M	L	
Vegetative Stabilization (cont'd)					
Conservation Cover (327)		H	H	H	
Riparian Buffers (391)		H	H	H	
Critical Area Planting (342)		H	H	H	
Wetland restoration (657)		H	H	H	
CAFO Management					
Waste Management System (312)	H	H	M		
Waste Storage Structure (313)	H	H	M		
Waste Storage Pond (425)	H	H	M		
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)	H	H	M		
Mulching (484)	H	H	M		
Waste Utilization (633)	H	H	M		
Water & Sediment Control Basin (638)	H	H	M		
Filter Strip (393)	H	H	M		
Sediment Basin (350)	H	H	M		

Table 11 (cont'd). Example Agricultural Area Management Practice/Hydrologic Flow Zone Considerations.

Flow Condition	High	Moist	Mid-range	Dry	Low
% Time Flow Exceeded	0-10	10-40	40-60	60-90	90-100
CAFO Management (cont'd)					
Grassed Waterway (412)	H	H	M		
Diversion (362)	H	H	M		
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)					
Constructed Wetland (656)					
Dikes (356)	H	H	M		
Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)	H	H	M		
Roof Runoff Mgmt (558)	H	H	M		
Floodwater Diversion (400)	H	H	M		
Terrace (600)	H	H	M		
Potential for source area contribution under given hydrologic condition (H: High; M: Medium; L: Low)					

Note: Numbers in parentheses are the U.S. Soil Conservation Service practice number.

9.6 Evaluation of TMDL Implementation Effectiveness

Evaluation of the effectiveness of TMDL implementation strategies should be conducted on multiple levels, as appropriate:

- HUC-12 or waterbody drainage area (i.e., TMDL analysis location)
- Subwatersheds or intermediate sampling locations
- Specific landuse areas (urban, pasture, etc.)
- Specific facilities (WWTF, CAFO, uniquely identified portion of MS4, etc.)
- Individual BMPs

In order to conduct an implementation effectiveness analysis on measures to reduce E. coli source loading, monitoring results should be evaluated in one of several ways. Sampling results can be compared to water quality standards (e.g., load duration curve analysis) for determination of impairment status, results can be compared on a before and after basis (temporal), or results can be evaluated both upstream and downstream of source reduction measures or source input (spatial). Considerations include period of record, data collection frequency, representativeness of data, and sampling locations.

In general, periods of record greater than 5 years (given adequate sampling frequency) can be evaluated for determination of relative change (trend analysis). For watershed in second or successive TMDL cycles, data collected from multiple cycles can be compared. If implementation efforts have been initiated to reduce loading, evaluation of routine monitoring data may indicate improving or worsening conditions over time and corresponding effectiveness of implementation efforts.

Water quality data for implementation effectiveness analysis can be presented in multiple ways. For example, Figure 11 shows fecal coliform concentration data statistics for Oostanaula Creek at mile 28.4 (Hiwassee River watershed) for a historical (2002) TMDL analysis period versus a recent post-implementation period of sampling data (revised TMDL). The individual flow zone analyses are presented in a box and whisker plot of recent [2] versus historical [1] data. Figure 12 shows a load duration curve analysis (of recent versus historical data) of fecal coliform loading statistics for Oostanaula Creek. Lastly, Figure 13 shows best fit curve analyses of flow (percent time exceeded) versus fecal coliform loading relationships (regressions) plotted against the LDC of the single sample maximum water quality standard. Note that Figures 11-13 present the same data, from approved TMDLs (2 cycles), each clearly illustrating improving conditions between historical and recent periods.

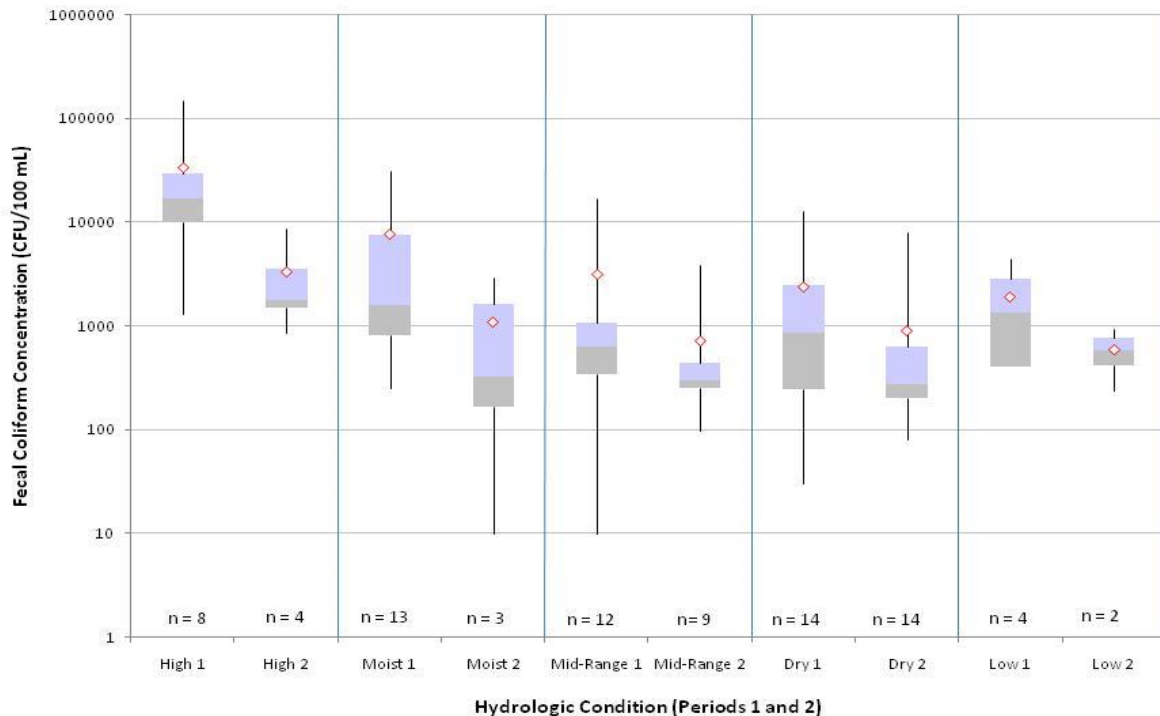


Figure 11. Oostanaula Creek TMDL implementation effectiveness (box and whisker plot).

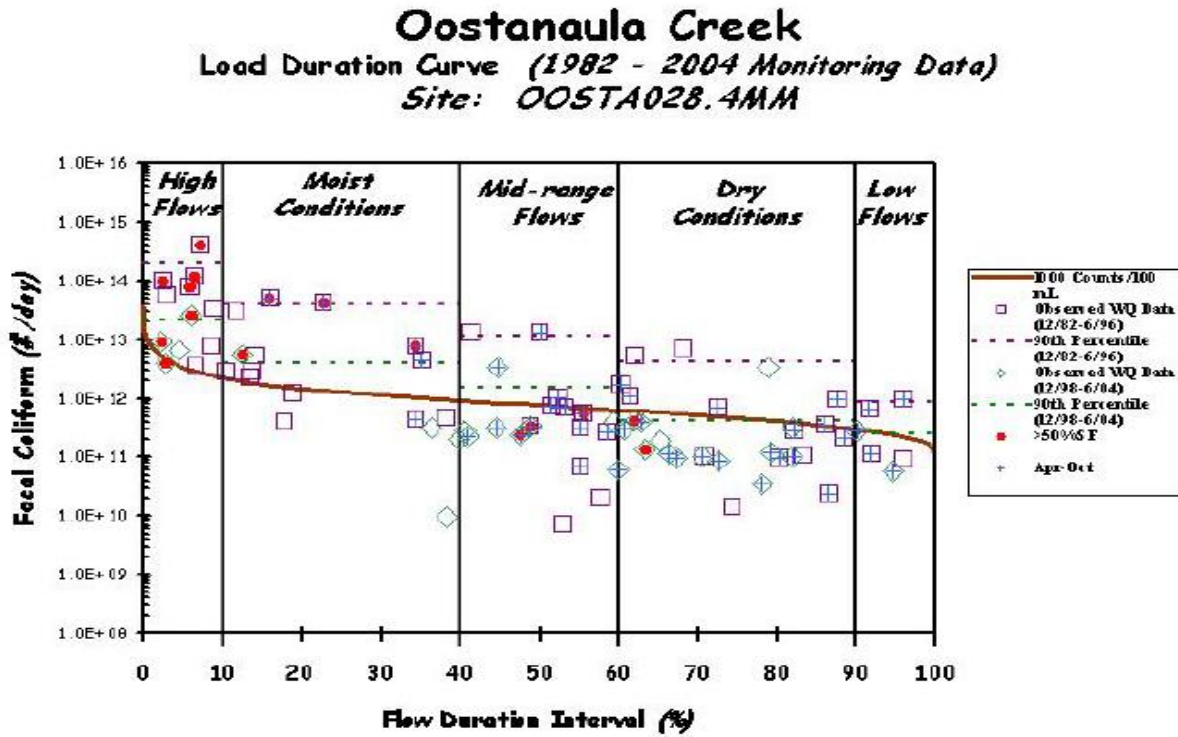


Figure 12. Oostanaula Creek TMDL implementation effectiveness (LDC analysis).

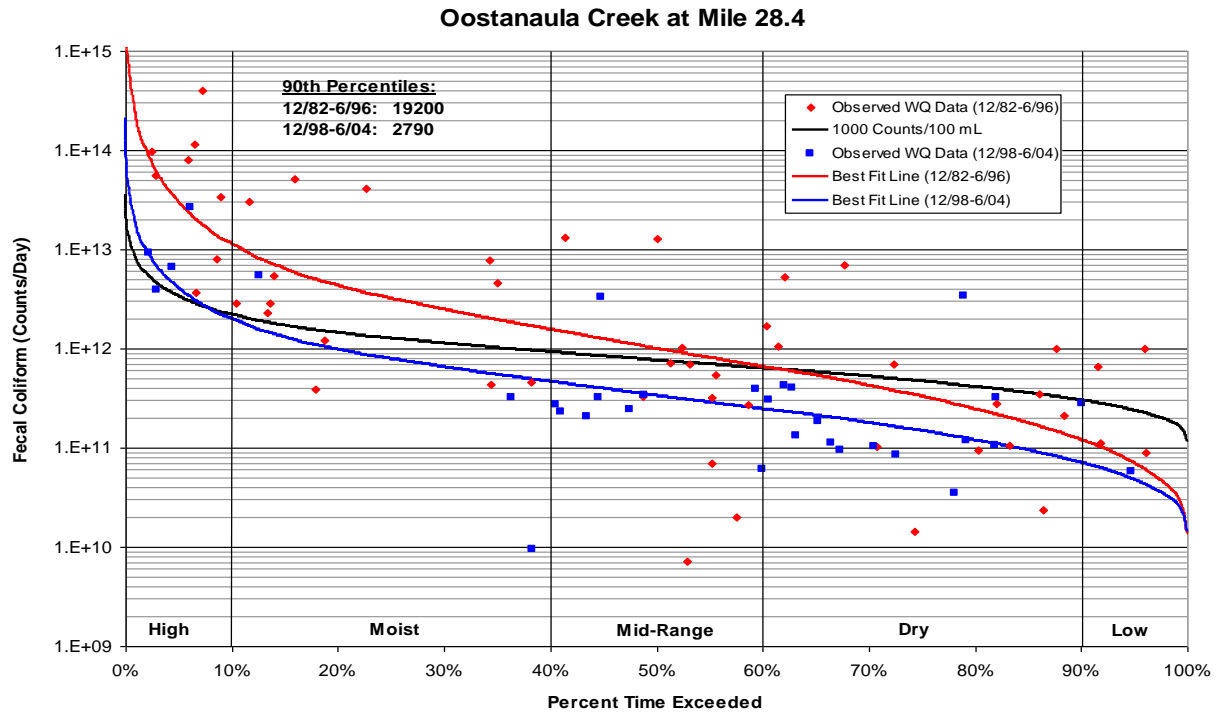


Figure 13. Oostanaula Creek TMDL implementation effectiveness (LDC regression analysis).

10.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with 40 CFR §130.7, the proposed pathogen TMDLs for the Obey River Watershed were placed on Public Notice for a 35-day period and comments solicited. Steps that were taken in this regard include:

- 1) Notice of the proposed TMDLs was posted on the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation website. The announcement invited public and stakeholder comment and provided a link to a downloadable version of the TMDL document.
- 2) Notice of the availability of the proposed TMDLs (similar to the website announcement) was included in one of the NPDES permit Public Notice mailings which is sent to approximately 90 interested persons or groups who have requested this information.
- 3) Letters were sent to WWTFs located in E. coli-impaired subwatersheds or drainage areas in the Obey River Watershed, permitted to discharge treated effluent containing pathogens, advising them of the proposed TMDLs and their availability on the TDEC website. The letters also stated that a copy of the draft TMDL document would be provided on request. A letter was sent to the following facilities:

Byrdstown STP (TN0062626)
Jamestown STP (TN0062634)

- 4) A draft copy of the proposed TMDL was sent to those MS4s that are wholly or partially located in E. coli-impaired subwatersheds. A draft copy was sent to the following entities:

Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TNS077585)

- 5) A letter was sent to water quality partners in the Obey River Watershed advising them of the proposed pathogen TMDLs and their availability on the TDEC website. The letter also stated that a written copy of the draft TMDL document would be provided upon request. A letter was sent to the following partners:

Cumberland River Compact
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Forest Service
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
The Nature Conservancy
Hull-York Lakeland Resource Conservation &
Development (RC&D) Council

No comments were received during the public notice period.

11.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information concerning Tennessee's TMDL program can be found on the Internet at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation website:

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/tmdl/>

Technical questions regarding this TMDL should be directed to the following members of the Division of Water Pollution Control staff:

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